

WESLEY BOLIN MEMORIAL PLAZA

Memorial Descriptions

1 – Wesley Bolin Memorial Marker

The Plaza is named for Wesley Bolin who served as Secretary of State in Arizona for 28 years. He also served as Governor for four months beginning on October 20, 1977 after Governor Raul Castro's appointment as US Ambassador to Argentina. Bolin passed away in March of 1978.

2 – Father Kino Statue

The statue of Father Eusebio Francisco Kino was presented in 1967 by the people of Sonora, Mexico. Kino, a Jesuit missionary, entered the southern part of what is now Arizona in 1691. Dubbed the "Padre on Horseback", he was also an explorer, cattleman, cartographer, and defender of the frontier who was well respected during his 24 years in the region. Mission San Xavier del Bac outside Tucson was established by Kino in April of 1700 and still serves local residents. Father Kino died in 1711. The statue includes a time capsule to be opened August 22, 2235.

3 – Bushmaster Memorial

This memorial is dedicated to the 158th Regimental Combat Team of the Arizona National Guard. Their lineage goes back to 1865 at Maricopa Wells when all members were Pima Indians. The group was designated to serve as honor guard for Woodrow Wilson during 1917 peace talks in France. The largely Hispanic and Native American unit saw heavy combat in the Pacific theater of World War II. General Douglas MacArthur referred to the 158th as "the greatest fighting combat team ever deployed for battle." The unit was retired on December 3, 1967. Its insignia, the Bushmaster, is a snake entwined around a machete.

4 – Arizona Pioneer Women's Monument

This monument was dedicated in 1968 by the Daughters of Utah. Mormon women were among the first to come to Arizona to settle. Daily life included caring for family and home as well as building, ranching, farming, and even defense of property. Western Mormon people mainly from Utah were instructed by their Church to establish settlements in the Arizona Territory from the Arizona Strip to Benson. This pattern of settlements was believed by some to be preparation for migration to Mexico.

5 – Ten Commandments Monument

The Ten Commandments monument was presented in 1963 by the Past Presidents Club of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2407. The Eagles believe in living by the words of the Ten Commandments. Past Presidents Clubs throughout the United States purchased these monuments for their states at a cost of \$500 each to "bring back the Ten Commandments to the People."

6 – Civilian Conservation Corps Monument

This monument was dedicated October 20, 1990 to salute the Arizonans who served with three million Corps members nationwide. The Corps was founded in the 1930's to provide work during the Depression. Arizona projects included installation of the State's first telephone lines as well as the roads and picnic ramadas at South Mountain Park. Grand Canyon trails and rock walls along the rim were also built by the Corps. Members were paid \$30.00 per month, \$25.00 of which was sent home to families. Room and board was provided.

7 – Fourth Marine Division – World War II

This monument is dedicated to The Fourth, activated August 16, 1943. Trained at Camp Pendleton, California, the division sailed from San Diego for battle engagements in The Marshall Islands, Marianas Islands and at Iwo Jima until its return to the United States in 1945 where it was formally deactivated.

8 – Law Enforcement Memorial

This monument was dedicated in 1965 by the State Lodge of the F.O.P. It honors Arizona police officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

9 – Veterans of World War I

This monument is dedicated to Arizonans who fought in WWI. The United States entered WWI in April 1917 on the side of the Western Allies. Native Phoenician Frank Luke, Jr. for whom Luke Air Force Base is named, was a casualty of this war.

10 – Confederate Troops Memorial

The Monument was presented by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1961 to honor Arizona's Confederate soldiers. In 1861-62 the Confederate Army pushed westward into a largely defenseless Arizona. Federal troops were back East defending the Union. Without military presence, attacks and raids between Apaches and settlers had increased. As a result, the troops were welcomed, creating sympathy for the South. Confederates briefly claimed a strip of land stretching from Texas to the California border as the Arizona Territory of the Confederacy. One of two Civil War battles in Arizona was at Picacho Peak, between Texans and a Union column from California. It was considered a Northern victory. Some historians believe that Southern sympathy in Tucson created a lack of acceptance for the Territorial Capitol in 1863.

11 – Jewish War Veterans Memorial

The Jewish War Veteran's memorial was dedicated in May of 1950 by Valley of the Sun Post No. 194. The women of the Post honored the men who fought and gave their lives in World War II. Names and dates of the dead appear on the monument.

12 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

This monument and tree were dedicated Jan. 9, 1984 by the Sun Valley Caucus, a group of business people interested in political action by and for minorities. Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., born in 1929 was killed by an assassin's bullet in 1968.

13 – Armenian Holocaust Memorial

The Armenian community in Arizona unveiled this memorial to the genocide of Armenians in Turkey. It is a simple monument of tufa stone, a rock native to both Arizona and Armenia. Engraved on the back are the names of survivors who eventually found their way to Arizona.

14 – American Merchant Seaman Memorial

During times of National crisis the Merchant Marine have rallied to battle enemy mines, submarines, and planes while building a "bridge of steel" for supplies across the seas to our troops and their allies.

15 – Arizona Peace Officers Memorial

This memorial was dedicated May 20, 1988. The statue by sculptor Wes Chapman is an 11 foot Peace Officer paying homage to all Arizona law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The model for the sculpture was Gordon Selby, veteran of the Phoenix Police Department and the Department of Public Safety. It was erected under the authority of House Bill 2486, introduced by former Representative Jim Skelly in 1986. The base displays names of officers killed in the line of duty since 1863, the year Arizona became a territory. Police lodges throughout the state are responsible for upkeep and adding names in a ceremony each year.

16 – Korean War Memorial

The memorial was dedicated November 12, 1990 to honor Arizona Korean War veterans. The front is engraved with the Great Seal of the State of Arizona. The back has a memorial inscription. The bronze bell was cast in Korea and weighs approximately two tons. It is considered "temple" quality, suitable for ringing on solemn occasions. The bell is rung by striking it with a log suspended from chains. The trees in the planters are Acacia, indigenous to both Korea and Arizona.

17 – USS Arizona Mast

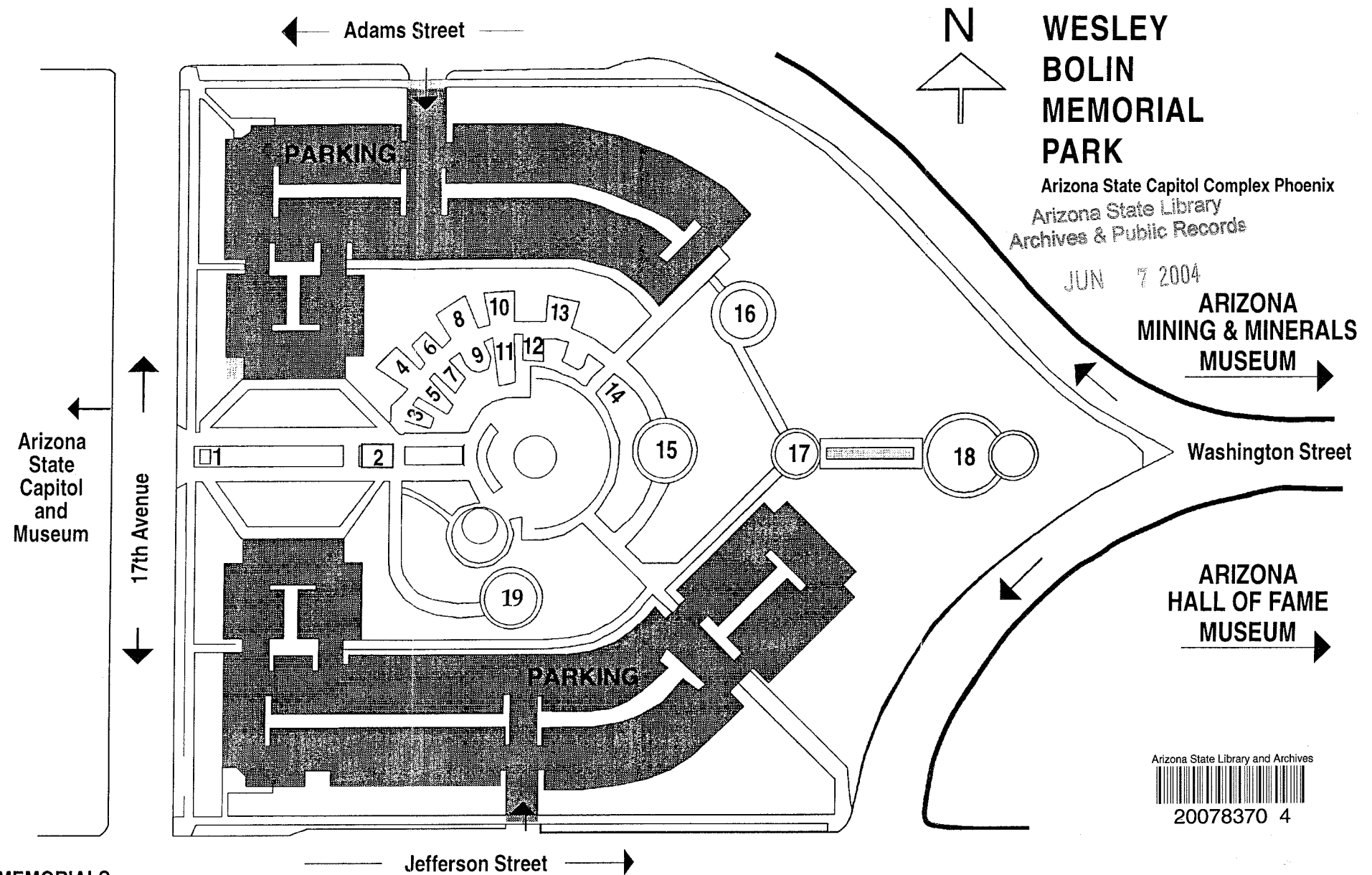
The signal mast from the USS Arizona was dedicated December 7, 1990. Called the "pig tail" mast, it was the highest point on the ship. The USS Arizona went down during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The superstructure above the waterline was removed shortly after the attack. Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations had the mast sent to Commander Keyes in his hometown of Lorian, Ohio. It was modified and used as a training device at the Naval Armory until 1980. The Armory was razed and the mast destined for salvage when it was saved by Nick Dononfrio, a naval engineer. In 1990 Mr. Dononfrio decided to sell the mast and a Glendale, Arizona businessman, Robert Manzetti saw the ad. Mr. Manzetti began a fund raising campaign to bring the mast to Arizona, refurbish it and place it in Wesley Bolin Plaza.

18 – USS Arizona Anchor

The anchor memorial was dedicated December 7, 1976 by the US Navy, the Arizona Republic Newspaper, Arizona school children, and others. Weighing almost 10 tons, this anchor is one of two used on the USS Arizona. The first is installed on the tour boat landing at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. The second remained in Navy storage until its discovery by Captain G.G. Dunn in 1971. The following year it was brought to Arizona. The plaque gives the names of the sailors and Marines who died when the ship went down. An adjacent time capsule will be opened December 7, 2075.

19 – Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

The memorial was dedicated November 9, 1985. It consists of ten columns of black granite. The names of Arizonans killed or missing in action in Vietnam are engraved on the columns. The flagpole base is identical to that of the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington DC. Jasper D'Ambrosi, nationally acclaimed bronze artist of Tempe, Arizona created "The Fallen Warrior" sculpture. It portrays young soldiers as war's victims as much as its heroes.



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